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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
BRAZIL

IPF:(1987-91) $17 500 000

(BRA/90/005) - Support for IBAMA to Consolidate and Co-ordinate Government Environmental Administration and Management in Brazil

Date of approval:	31 January 1990
Expected duration:	Two years
Proposed executing agency:	Government
Government implementing agency:	Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA)
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$640 000 Source of funds: IPF
Total UNDP budget:	$640 000

Project background

Until about two years ago, environmental protection in Brazil was basically limited to localized and/or corrective measures, rather than preventive ones. Through heightened international and national awareness, the environment has become a central issue in the country. Environmental studies are now required before undertaking development projects. The new Constitution (1988) establishes the rights and obligations of the State and Society to preserve the environment for future generations. Brazilians are becoming aware that they are losing their natural heritage as a result of non-rational exploitation of natural resources. Moreover, the business sector is exerting pressure for environmental protection, because of international restrictions placed on Brazilian products as a result of environmental concerns.

All these factors are placing more pressure on the Brazilian Government to take action and to fulfill the new environmental requirements. In 1989 the Government created the Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA) to co-ordinate and execute the national policy for the environment. Many factors impede state definition and implementation of environmental policies, including the following: the wide range of environmental demands, including the different sectors requiring action and the different types of environmental problems; lack of a strong conceptual base for environmental administration; over-exploitation of both human and natural resources in order to service the external debt; external and internal conflicting pressure groups; incompatibility of different development models; limits of political power, administration and managerial capacity, and economic resources within the Government; and the overloaded legal system which is unable to extend laws to cover environmental issues.

These considerations illustrate the complexity of the whole process and underline why it is essential to define a framework which would give coherence and dynamism to government action. UNDP assistance is therefore requested to consolidate government actions through

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IBAMA by establishing: (a) the stability and co-ordination of ongoing environmental projects; and (b) the synchronization of environmental programmes with the new demands and with the new central position of the environment in the relationship between State and Society.

Description of project

The project will contribute to an ecologically and economically well-balanced national development model by supporting the Government in its effort to make the environmental administration and management system more dynamic and appropriate to present-day requirements. It will support IBAMA in the co-ordination and articulation of projects in the environmental area through technical meetings, project revisions and informational bulletins, among other means; will stimulate the development of new environmental administration models by supporting the formulation of proposals for models, in line with present demands; and will include new agents in the various stages of the environmental decision-making processes.

By the end of the project, a permanent process of co-ordination, optimization and updating of ongoing environmental projects, which currently lack continuity, will be in motion. IBAMA will be able to detect omissions in the overall framework of projects that will enable the identification of future projects that complement existing ones. This new situation will create stability, coherence and the orientation of priorities, thus creating attractive opportunities for internal and external investments. The project will also support the institutional strengthening component of the National Programme for the Environment (PNMA), a $150 million investment over four years, to be financed by the World Bank. Finally, the results of this project will support the preparation of Brazil's participation in the UN II World Conference on the Environment and Development to be held in Brazil in 1992.

Inputs

UNDP will provide one man-month of short-term international consultants, 148 man-months of national short-term consultants, 178 man-months of administrative support personnel; duty travel; training in the form of courses or seminars; expendable and non-expendable equipment for producing and distributing three bulletins per year on progress of environmental projects and for holding a seminar to present proposals generated by the project.

Financial data

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Personnel	556 500
Training	6 000
Equipment	32 500
Miscellaneous	45 000
Total	640 000

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